

The Environment and Public Works Committee did its job. Senator LOTT did his job in calling the bill up for debate. But, it takes 60 votes to cut off a filibuster and pass a bill. We tried four times.

I am not enthusiastic about this short-term bill. It is a far cry from what we should have done earlier and what I hope we will do at our earliest opportunity next year.

But, we have to be realistic about where we are today. And we have to face the reality that the 6-year ISTEA reauthorization bill did not pass this year. Under such circumstances, I think that the majority leader would have been entirely justified in not bringing up and facilitating the passage of the short-term extension. He could easily say to Senators that we should stew in our own juice.

So as a Senator from a State severely affected by the failure to move ahead on ISTEA, I appreciate that he took the high road. The short-term bill will at least relieve the vulnerable position States would be in under no ISTEA authority at all.

But, I want the people of Utah to know that I will be working hard in the months ahead to support the Senator from Rhode Island and the Senator from Montana in the effort to get the 6-year ISTEA bill passed in the Senate and into conference with the House.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be extended until noon today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I yield the floor.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the privilege of the floor be granted to Ruth Fleischer and Andrea Nygren. Andrea Nygren is a fellow. I ask floor privileges be granted today to both these members of my staff.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from the great State of North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. I thank the Chair, and especially thank him for his characterization of my State.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

Mr. CONRAD. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. CONRAD and Mr. DORGAN pertaining to the introduction of S. 1515 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

TRIBUTE TO DERIK FETTIG

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today for the purpose of recognizing the efforts of Derik Fettig, a legisla-

tive assistant on my staff who will be leaving the Senate at the end of this session. With his good humor and hard work, Derik has been a tremendous asset as we have worked on issues impacting North Dakota.

A native of Bismarck, ND and graduate of Colorado College, Derik joined my Washington office in May 1995, and was immediately drawn into some of the most important issues that confront our State. His portfolio—which includes water projects and disaster relief—bears witness to the fact that he has served at a critical time in our State's history.

Derik played a pivotal role in the aftermath of this year's historic disasters. He worked with the Corps of Engineers, as well as with the different mayors and local officials up and down the Red River Valley, to address the daily crises associated with what was dubbed "Blizzard Hannah" and the millennium flood. Even more significantly, he helped design and implement the Federal assistance strategy, which has provided the groundwork for North Dakota's long road to recovery and more than \$770 million in Federal aid.

Derik has also been of great help with the ongoing water problems facing North Dakota. He has worked to ensure that the Federal Government responds adequately to the unfolding tragedy in Devils Lake. In addition, he has been the point person on my staff for producing a reformulated Garrison Diversion project. With Derik's able assistance, we have forged an unprecedented political consensus among North Dakota's elected political leadership on a revised plan to address the State's long-term water needs. And in the middle of all of this, he ran Grandma's Marathon in Duluth, MN.

We will miss you, Derik. I commend you for your tireless work and wish you the very best in your future endeavors.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROBERTS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RIVER GOVERNANCE AND FISH WILDLIFE ISSUES FOR ELECTRICITY RESTRUCTURING

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, late last week the distinguished Senator from Arkansas, Senator BUMPERS, and I introduced broad-based electricity restructuring legislation. Each of us spoke to that legislation at that time. We expressed the belief that this first bipartisan approach to a major national issue facing the country would trigger even more serious consideration than has been given during this first session of this Congress to that

subject, and expressed the hope, which I repeat here, that it is an issue that will seriously be considered by both Houses of Congress during the course of the next year.

One major portion of that bill, S. 1401, is a title dealing with the Pacific Northwest fish and the management of the Columbia River system. I greatly appreciated Senator BUMPERS' willingness to put his name on those regional provisions, as he did in my case, I believe, with respect to the provisions dealing with the Tennessee Valley Authority.

This morning I wish to speak briefly on the fish and wildlife issues that are a part of S. 1401. The bill does not address, Mr. President, except in the most general way, the critical need for an improved "river governance" process, especially with respect to issues relating to fish and wildlife. This omission should not be misinterpreted. Legislation may well be needed in this area to assure that the multiple purposes of the Federal power system are protected together with the public benefits that they bring.

I hope that over the next several months the region can reach a consensus on these issues, including who pays the costs associated with needed actions. Bonneville ratepayers currently fund this effort through their power rates at a cost of \$435 million a year on average, and their ability to make additional contributions to this effort and still meet other statutory obligations is increasingly constrained by an increasingly competitive, deregulated wholesale electric energy market. In forging a financing package, it will be important to look to all who benefit from this important natural resource to assume their fair share of financial responsibility, and to act consistently with sound business principles by holding administrative costs to as low a level as possible.

Money alone, however, is not the answer. Today, the salmon recovery effort is failing. It is failing because of a flawed process for decisionmaking. This process has conflicting goals. It disperses decisionmaking authority among many Federal and State agencies and tribes and has little accountability for cost effective results.

To make real progress, we need a regional plan; a plan in which all governmental interests—States, tribes, and the Federal Government—are partners, together with economic and environmental interests, for success. And success will mean the achievement of clearly defined goals measured by unambiguous results; results that rely on the best science of how to improve the survival of downstream smolts and that assure adequate escapement of returning adults to the spawning beds.

All northwesterners care about our salmon resources. We argue sometimes about the best way to reach our shared goals but it is vital to remember that we share the goal of preserving and